conditionally increasing the age-limit to 65 years for exercising the privileges of their licences for commercial transport operations under prescribed conditions for pilots, upgradation and modernisation of training infrastructure of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) to enhance its training capacity, setting up of a world class flying training institute at Gondia, Maharashtra and assistance to flying clubs by allocating trainer aircraft through Directorate General of Civil Aviation/ Aero Club of India.

**Safety Audit in Civil Aviation sector**

1504. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that passenger safety is at stake after the boom in the Civil Aviation sector;

(b) whether safety audit is being done regularly on schedule;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government would consider evoking a civil aviation regulating authority to tackle the issues of passenger safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Safety Audit of Airlines/Operator are carried out by the audit team of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) as per the relevant Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR). Performance of the operator is assessed on the basis of incidents and other violations along with feedback from the regional offices, where the operator is based before carrying out Safety Audit. During the period 2004—06 (till date) 21 Safety Audits have been carried out on twenty operators.

(d) DGCA is the safety regulator for civil aviation and enforcing highest level of Safety in Aircraft Operations, Maintenance, Passenger Safety by Safety Audits, Surveillance Inspections, Spot Checks, Ramp Inspections, meetings with Airlines Operators etc.